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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: A total of 102 Communist-initiated incidents were reported by the end of the 48-hour Christmas truce.

Several sharp clashes with Communist troops were reported during the period. However, the majority of the incidents were of a minor nature, with the rate of incidents slightly lower than during the 1965 Christmas truce period. Friendly casualties during the cease-fire totaled 34 killed (three US) and 43 wounded (23 US). Known Communist losses were reported as 12 killed.

An enemy force of undetermined size early on 26 December penetrated the perimeter of a US First Air Cavalry position in the Bong Son area of Binh Dinh Province. At last report contact had been broken and US forces were sweeping the area. Initial casualties reported were 24 US killed and 48 wounded. Enemy losses were 43 killed and two wounded captured. Three US artillery pieces were destroyed in the attack.

The only other significant ground action reported since the truce period ended was in coastal Phuoc Tuy Province where a combined force of Australian and South Vietnamese Army troops reported several encounters with the Viet Cong yesterday. Supported by artillery, air strikes, and naval gunboats, the allied force reportedly killed 27 enemy troops and captured a large number of weapons and equipment. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Saigon dockworkers handling military cargo at the city's main port initiated a total walk-out yesterday, as threatened.

The strike is allegedly a protest over the assignment of US troops rather than Vietnamese workers to unload cargo at New Port, recently constructed for the

US military four miles upriver. However, the main purpose of the strike is apparently to pressure the US Army to renew contracts with stevedore companies handling military cargo at the main port. These contracts are due to expire on 31 December.

South Vietnam's Minister of Labor is working behind the scenes to resolve the contract issue, believing that this will bring a quick end to the strike. The problem, however, is somewhat complicated by union infighting which could affect the position of the dockworkers and prolong the strike.

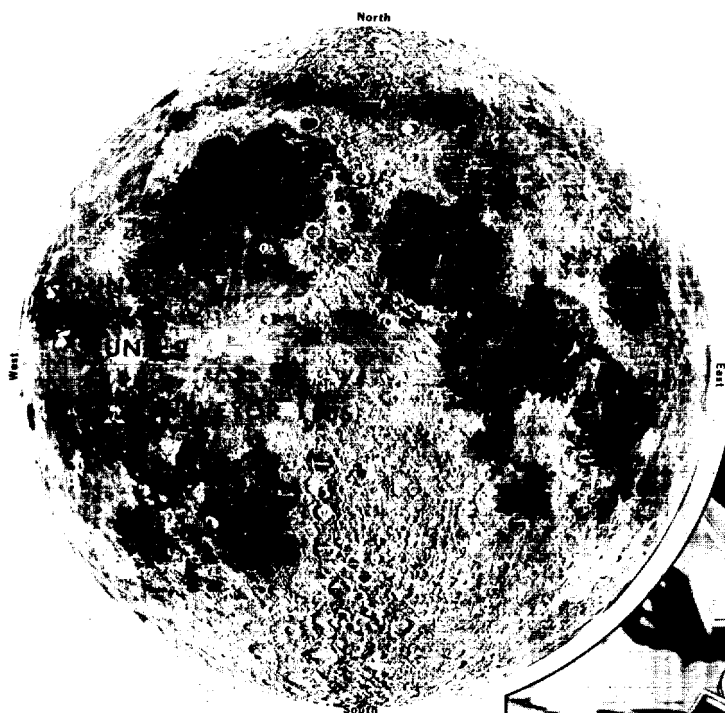
US troops are moving critical cargo at the main port to prevent additional congestion. Meanwhile, unloading operations by US troops at New Port are unaffected, despite picketing by worker groups for the past few days.

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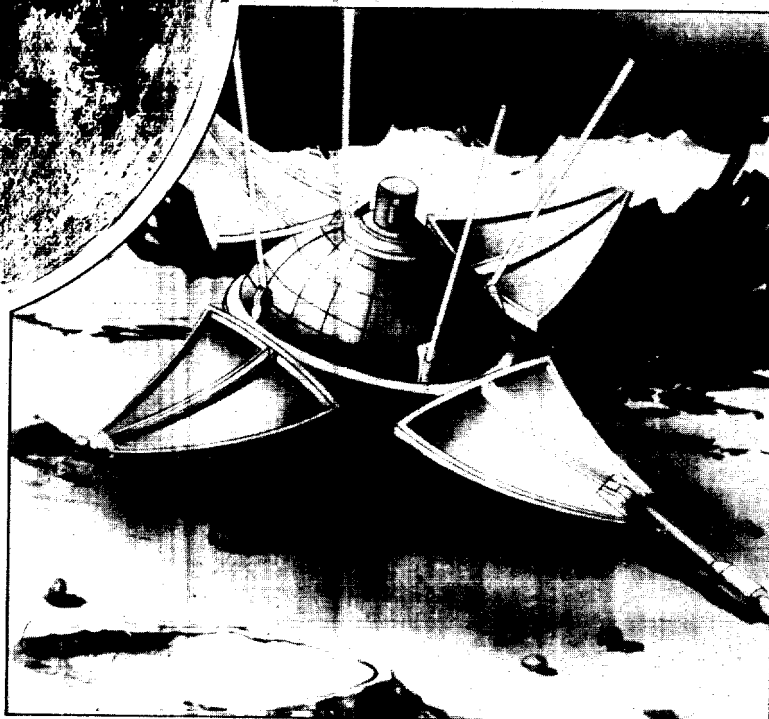
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THE MOON

SOVIET LUNA MISSIONS

27 DECEMBER 1966



Soviets state Luna 13 resembles Luna 9, shown above

| USSR 1966 LUNAR EXPLORATION PROGRAM | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| VEHICLE | LAUNCH DATE | MISSION | RESULT (Success/Failure) |
| LUNA 9 | 31 Jan | "Soft" landing and take photographs | Success |
| COSMOS 111 | 1 Mar | Probably orbit moon | Failure (No ejection from earth orbit) |
| LUNA 10 | 11 Mar | Orbit moon; get scientific data | Success |
| LUNA 11 | 24 Aug | Orbit moon and photograph surface | Orbit success but no photographs |
| LUNA 12 | 22 Oct | Orbit moon and photograph surface | Orbit success and poor photographs |
| LUNA 13 | 21 Dec | "Soft" landing and take photographs | Success |

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USSR: The Soviet Union capped a relatively successful year of lunar exploration on 25 December when Luna 13 began transmitting pictures of the moon's surface back to earth.

Luna 13, which Soviet commentary stated closely resembles the previous Soviet soft-lander Luna 9, arrived on the moon on 24 December after an 80-hour trip.

Luna 13 landed in the Sea of Storms, where both Luna 9 and the US Surveyor 1 previously had taken their pictures. The pictures taken by Luna 13 and shown on Soviet television were of good quality, in contrast to the poor photographs that Luna 12 took from orbit.

The very small size of Luna 13, probably close to the 24-inch diameter of Luna 9, would limit the photographic horizon to approximately one mile on a smooth lunar surface. In addition to the photographic apparatus, Luna 13 may carry limited soil-analysis equipment. []

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Communist China: Controls to prevent the cultural revolution from disrupting industry seem to be breaking down, exposing the economy to the same dangers that brought virtual collapse during the Great Leap Forward.

A 26 December People's Daily editorial declares that there is "no option" to revolution in factories because a handful of reactionaries is still pointing many enterprises toward revisionism and capitalism. Workers are called on to exchange revolutionary experiences with Red Guards, and to elect groups within factories which apparently are to supersede regular management in controlling production. Management is ordered to cease discipline against revolutionary workers and to reinstate those already disciplined.

By sanctioning revolution in factories, but asking the workers to maintain the eight-hour day and to fulfill plans, the regime may be hoping to keep to a minimum the effects of the revolution on industrial production. Starting in September and continuing as recently as 10 November, workers were told not to leave their posts and were warned that even temporary interference with production could have "grave consequences" for the economy. However, it is known from various sources that enterprises and research organs--including some in advanced weapons work--have been disrupted by Red Guard incursions and by political investigations inspired by the cultural revolution.

Yugoslavia: The erosion of central authority as well as tension between Yugoslavia's liberals and conservatives probably contributed to the violence of last week's anti-US demonstrations.

The government's role in the violent incidents in Zagreb and Belgrade on 20 and 23 December is unclear. The regime presumably sanctioned demonstrations against US policy in Vietnam. However, the riots could hardly fail to embarrass the more liberal party-government leadership that has emerged since the ouster last July of conservative vice president Rankovic.

The government approved peaceful protests throughout the country on 20 December. The 23 December riot in Belgrade followed rumors that there would be another student demonstration "if the permit is granted."

[redacted] a pro-Rankovic student group at Belgrade University intended to stage a protest meeting over Vietnam before the US Embassy. A previous plan by a university group to conduct a similar but unsanctioned protest was canceled when police learned of it.

Official press criticism indicates that "individuals with unknown aims" were responsible for the violence. Thus, the initially peaceful protests may have been used by dissatisfied party elements to express their displeasure with developments since Rankovic's ouster.

The violence may also be partly attributable to a decline in central authority. Prior to the Belgrade riots, Yugoslav Foreign Minister Nikezic told the US ambassador that "all sorts of authority" were being questioned. Nikezic also apologized for the extensive damage inflicted on the US Consulate in Zagreb. [redacted]

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Congo (Kinshasa) - Belgium: President Mobutu has taken a decisive step toward gaining control of the Union Miniere mining company's Congolese assets.

On 23 December the Congolese Government stopped the export--but not the production--of copper and other minerals mined by Union Miniere. It also set up a new "council of administration" to take over the company's operations in the Congo.

According to the government's announcement, more than half of the shares of the new council are to be owned by the government in Kinshasa, but the majority of its members are to be Europeans. Mobutu says he plans to include five Belgians now working for Union Miniere in the Congo. The council apparently is not to be responsible for marketing copper abroad but will leave this function to foreign entities--with Union Miniere very possibly continuing to take most of the production.

Mobutu apparently hopes that most of the company's personnel in the Congo--who are crucial to the country's mineral production--will stay on under the new arrangement. While he has stepped up Congolese Army and police activity in the Katanga mining region, he apparently is trying to minimize open harassment of the Belgians and has assured them that he wants them to remain.

Union Miniere may go along with the new arrangement in order to salvage as much as it can of its position. In particular, there is a good chance it can preserve its lucrative interest in the marketing of the Congo's mineral products. The Congo, for its part, needs some accommodation soon since Kinshasa's foreign exchange position is almost entirely dependent on the continued export of copper. [REDACTED]

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